WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A substantially purified oligonucleotide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

5'-CCG GGA GAG CCA TAG TGG TCT GCG-3' (SEQ ID NO:3),

5'-TAA TAC GAC TCA CTA TAG GGG CAG AAA GCG TCT AGC CAT GGC GTA AAA TCC GGT AGT AAC TTG CTA ACC-3' (SEQ ID NO:4),

5'-CTC GCA AGC ACC CTA TCA GGC AGT TAG TGC GGG TGT TGA ATG ATT TCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:5), and

5'-TTG GCA ACA GTG GCA TGC ACC G-3' (SEQ ID NO:6).

2. The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said oligonuclotide is conjugated to a detectable label.

3. The oligonucleotide of claim 2, wherein the detectable label is a fluorescent dye.

4. The oligonucleotide of claim 2, wherein the detectable label is a fluorescent molecular beacon pair.

5. The oligonucleotide of claim 4, wherein the oligonucleotide is 5' [2'-chloro-7'-phenyl-1,4-dichloro-6-carboxyfluorescein (VIC)]- CCG GGA GAG CCA TAG TGG TCT GCG- (SEQ.ID.NO. 7) [6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA)] 3' or 5' [6-carboxyfluorescein(FAM)]- TTG GCA ACA GTG GCA TGC ACC G - (SEQ.ID.NO. 8) [6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA)]3'.

6. The oligonucleotide of claim 1, wherein said oligonucleotide is SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:5.

7. A method for producing an oligonucleotide that is a hybrid of lambda phage-HCV nucleic acid sequence, comprising:

amplifying lambda phage DNA using a pair of oligonucleotide primers having the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 and SEQ ID NO:5 to provide a plurality of lambda phage-HCV hybrid amplicons; and

reverse transcribing and purifying the resultant lambda phage-HCV hybrid RNA.